

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

REPORT

SUBJECT Treatment of Non-Communist Members
Of the Medical Profession

DATE DISTR. 15 Jan. 1954

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NO. OF PAGES 3 25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT

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REFERENCES

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1. Relatively speaking, the medical profession in Yugoslavia has fewer Communist Party members and sympathizers than any other profession. Even those physicians who served the Yugoslav cause as members of the Partisan Forces during the war and were therefore considered as active Communists hold themselves aloof from the present regime. Some of them even regret helping the present Government to attain power. The Communist regime in Yugoslavia has always been intensely interested in winning over members of the medical profession because of the influence the latter possess because of their profession. The regime has approached them overtly and invited them to collaborate as propagandists and even as informers. However, the overwhelming majority of physicians refused to collaborate in any work of this nature. Those who did not openly oppose the present regime remained passive and reserved on matters related to any activities outside the realm of their profession.
2. In 1945, immediately following World War II, numerous members of the medical profession, who were known for their anti-Communist attitude, were arrested, tried and condemned to labor camps. Some of these doctors were liquidated. However, the regime was soon obliged to call a halt to this type of persecution inasmuch as the Government needed members of the medical profession to put its health service program into effect. In general, members of the medical profession in Yugoslavia have suffered less persecution than individuals in other professions. A few cases can be cited where "reactionary" doctors have felt the impact of arbitrary justice. One example of this is the still-remembered brutal trial of Dr. Stefanovic at Valjevo. Some of the older doctors of professional renown and honorable standing have been ruined by confiscatory taxation, others have been deprived of their licenses to practice. A victim of

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the latter treatment was Dr. Miso Brenovac, who was stripped of his license on orders of the local Communist Party Committee, and in order to support himself was forced to work as a street cleaner for two years. However, examples of sheer brutality in connection with members of the Yugoslav medical profession are relatively few.

3. Since May or June 1953, however, there have been increasing signs that a new drive against medical opponents of the Tito regime is in process. Among the first victims of this drive was the Medical School of the University of Belgrade, where a ruthless purge has been in effect. It is a well-known fact that the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Communist Party has for a long time been trying to eradicate the aloof attitude of many eminent specialists and scientists on the University's Medical Faculty. The members of the stated faculty have been asked to register for membership in the Communist Party; they have been ordered to carry out Party instructions in regard to the school's curriculum. They have been directed to teach the various subjects in accordance with the principles of Marxist-Leninist scientific thinking; nevertheless, the stated Medical Faculty members have been adamant in their refusal to pervert the University chair into a propaganda platform, or to favor students who are Party members, over non-Party members, regardless of their qualifications or scientific knowledge and ability. In view of the fact that threats have proved fruitless, the Party machine has encouraged student Party members to hold mob demonstrations in classes while lectures were being given. The Yugoslav press has attacked the members of the Medical Faculty who refused to be coerced as "reactionaries" and "capitalists", and has not hesitated to accuse them of professional dishonesty. Their "crime" lies in the fact that they have fearlessly explained the progress of medical science in Western countries, and have refused to glorify Soviet research and so-called inventions.

4. The Tito regime has utilized the atmosphere created as a result of the Trieste crisis to force a showdown and to purge these "Westerners" from the University of Belgrade, in order to replace them with loyal Communists of the younger generation who have graduated from the school during recent years.

5. Although the purge has affected every medical school in the country,

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[REDACTED] The following is a list of professors and docents who were dismissed from the University of Belgrade:

- a. Dr. Ilija Dimitrijevic¹, professor;
- b. Dr. Milan Prica², professor;
- c. Dr. Milan Fotic³, professor;
- d. Dr. Nikola Mirjanic, professor;
- e. Dr. Nikola Maksimovic, assistant professor;
- f. Dr. Vanjel Tasic⁴, docent; and
- g. Dr. Milivoje Milosevic⁵, docent.

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6. The stated dismissals were signed by the Council for Culture and Education (Ministry of Education), and carried the official statement that the stated individuals were dismissed upon the request of the University Students' Union, the Communist Party members among the faculty and students at the University who wanted the professors removed for "moral-political" reasons.

25X1 Comments

1. Identified as associate professor and administrator at the Institute of Pharmacology, University of Belgrade.
2. Identified as professor and administrator at the Institute of Hygiene, University of Belgrade.
3. Previously identified as docent and administrator at the Clinic of Otolaryngology, University of Belgrade.
4. Presumably identical with Dr. Vendjel Tasic, docent and acting administrator at the Institute of Medical Hydrology and Climatology, University of Belgrade.
5. Presumably identical with Dr. Milorad Milosevic, associate professor at the Medical School, and a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Parasitology, University of Belgrade.

25X1 Comment: it is generally assumed that
25X1 the purging of non-Communists from the medical faculties of all universities in the country is a set goal of the present regime in Yugoslavia, which desires a complete alignment of the Yugoslav medical curriculum with that of the medical schools in the Soviet orbit.

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